ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NEW RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

OAK GROVE CHURCH,

MARION COUNTY, ALA.,

October 12th to 15th, 1889.

OFFICERS:

J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator, ... Samantha, Ala.
J. E. COX, Clerk, ... Fayette C. H., Ala.
J. D. THOMAS, Cor. Sec'y, ... Newtonville, Ala.

The next session of this Body will meet with Mount Pleasant Church, Eight miles south-east from Fayette C. H., Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1890.

FAYETTE C. H., ALA.:
SENTINEL PRINT. P. J. SMITH, PRINTER.
1889.

MINUTES

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

The New River Baptist Association assembled with Oak Grove Baptist church, Marion county, Ala., on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1889. The opening sermon was delivered by the Clerk (who did the best he could under the circumstances) from Ephesians 5:32: "I speak concerning Christ and the Church."—After an intermission of one and a half hour, for refreshments—which were on the ground—the delegates reassembled in the house, with the former Moderator and Clerk.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator, W. G. Baker, after which the names of the churches were called, and the letters placed on the table. Brethren John H. Newton and W. J. Trull were appointed reading clerks, and letters from the following Churches were read, and names of delegates enrolled:

Philadelphia: J. S. Townsend, J. T. Smith and T. B. Newton.

Rocky Mount: G. W. Freeman and C. P. Taylor.

Siloam: Eld. J. Taylor and R. H. Erwin.

Harmony Grove: F. M. Couch.

New Hope: Eld. Q. D. Haney, M. Shirey and J. M. Weeks.

Pilgrim Rest: Eld. Frank Wilson and Jno. A. Freeman.

Mt. Olive: Eld. J. S. Shirley and J. G. Lawrence.

Union, Marion Co.: R. H. Caudle, J. Estell and J. A. Shaw.

Hopewell: J. E. Mills.

Union: C. J. Nichols.

Pleasant Hill: J. E. Cox, M. E. Chambliss and J. H. Newton.

Salem: Eld. W. J. Akin, J. D. Thomas and A. N. Reeves.

Oak Grove: W. A. Weeks, W. B. Owings and T. A. Roberts.

Shepherd: Eld. G. W. Gravlee.

Mt. Pisgah: Eld. W. G. Baker, F. M. Lowery and Jas. Traywick.

Mt. Pleasant: G. H. White, D. G. Kirkland and J. R. Gladden.

Friendship, Tuskaloosa Co.: Elder J. B. Ferguson and J. P. Watson.

Friendship; J. W. Akin and C. S. Corprell.

Sipsey Valley: James T. Sudduth.

Concord: Eld. L. C. Shirley and W. R. Falls.

Elbethel: W. F. Gilpin.

Mount Joy: A. J. Reeves and J. A. Harbin.

Meadow Branch; W. J. Trull.

Mount Lebanon: Elder J. F. Willis, W. F. Baker and J. W. Graham.

Fayetteville, Arbor Springs and Shady Grove were not represented.

The Association proceeded to organize by the election of officers—brethren J. W. Hosmer and M. D. Killingsworth acting as tellers—which resulted in the choice of Elder J. B. Ferguson, Moderator, J. E. Cox, Clerk, J. D. Thomas, Cor. Secretary, and J. W. Graham, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters, from newly constituted churches were called for, when letters from the following churches were presented, and, on motion, received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates, by the Moderator.

Bankston: Rev. J. W. Hosmer.

New Hope, Tuscaloosa Co.: I. B. Davis, W. F. Taylor.

Pleasant Grove: G. W. McGinnis.

Ministers, not delegates or correspondents, were invited to seats in the body.

The following committees were then appointed by the Moderator:

On Devotional Exercises: D. G. Kirkland, F. M. Lowrey and A. J. Reeves, with the pastor and deacons of Oak Grove church.

On Temperance: Elder J. F. Willis, I. B. Davis and Frank Wilson.

On Education: Elder Q. D. Haney, J. H. Newton and I. Estell.

On Literature: J. W. Graham, W. J. Trull, and A. J. Reeves.

On Finance: C. R. Davis, J. S. Townsend and J. P. Watson.

On Sunday Schools: J. W. Hosmer, M. E. Chambliss and G. H. White.

On Arrangements: Elder W. G. Baker, L. C. Shirley and J. Taylor.

On Documents: Elder G. W. Gravlee, J. S. Shirley and W. F. Baker.

A motion prevailed to adjourn until 8 o'clock on Monday morning, and the Association was led in prayer by Rev. Q. D. Haney. Benediction by Rev G. W. Gravlee.

Sabbath, October 13th.—At 9½ o'clock a. m., a very large congregation assembled at the "stand," and, according to the arrangement of the committee on devotional exercises, Rev. Q. D. Haney preached an interesting sermon from the 14:23 of Luke: "Go out into the high-ways and hedges, and compel them to come in," &c., after which a collection was taken up for Rev. E. Chaffin, of the Yellow Creek Association, amounting to $18.75, and Rev. W. M. Owings, of the New River Association, amounting to $20.50, both of whom are aged and infirm ministers.

At 11 o'clock a. m. Rev. J. B. Ferguson (in the absence of Rev. J. B. Huckabee) preached a spiritual sermon on the Kingdom. Text: John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world," &c.

Rev. J. W. Hosmer preached at night, and all were delighted with his sermon.

Thus the Sabbath was filled with work, and, no doubt good was the result.

MONDAY MORNING—8 o'clock.

The delegates assembled, and after devotional exercises, led by the Moderator, the Association was called to order.

The report of the committe on arrangements was called for, read and adopted as follows:

Order of Business: 1st, Read Articles of Faith; 2nd, hear reports of District Meetings; 3rd, hear report of the Mission Board; 4th, hear report of Committee on Temperance; 5th, hear report of Committee on Education; 6th, hear report of Committee on Literature; 7th, hear Treasurer's report; 8th, hear Corresponding Letter; 9th, receive Correspondents; 10th, return Correspondents; 11th, hear report of Committee on Nominations; 12th, hear report of Committee on Finance; 13th, hear report of Committee on Sabbath Schools; 14th, hear report of Committee on Documents; 15th, hear report of Committee on Ministerial Education; 16th, call for miscellanous business. W. G. Baker, Chm'n.

Reports of District Meetings.

The first district meeting held its session with Shady Grove church at the appointed time, and located the next session to be held with Chappel Hill church, on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1890.

First subject for discussion: "What is sanctification as to its general nature?" Opened by Elds. G. W. Gravlee and L. C. Shirley.

Second: "Is sanctification to be regarded as an attainable state in this life?" Opened by Elds. J. W. Hosmer and I. L. Collins.

Third: "What profit is derived from our District meetings?" Opened by Elds. M. W. Olive and A. J. Porter.

The next session of the New River Association to be held with Mount Pleasant church, 4 miles south of Legg Station, on the G. P. R. R. This October 31st, 1889.

L. C. Shirley, Clerk. J. D. Thomas, Mod'r.

The Second District met with Hopewell church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1889, and located the next session at El Bethel church, to begin on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September, 1890. The opening sermon to be preached by Elder W. G. Baker. W. A. Huckabee, alternate; Eld. W. J. Blankenship to preach at 11, a, m. on Sabbath, G, W. McGinnis, alternate.

First subject for discussion: "For what purpose did Jesus require baptism?" Second subject: 1st John 5:8. Opened by Elds. J. P. Dickinson and G. J. Sanford.—Third: "Is Christ now interceding for sinners?" Opened by W. A. Huckabee and J. S. Townsend.

J. S. SHIRLEY, Moderator.

M. D. KILLINGSWORTH, Clerk.

These reports were, on motion, adopted.

Report of Committee on Temperance:

Your Committee on Temperance would report, that, from the best information we can gather, dram-drinking is practiced and tolerated by some of our brethren, to some extent (an increase over what it was one year ago). Brethren, let us work more earnestly for our Master in going out after these erring brethren, in admonishing and praying for them, and in the exercise of discipline to remove the hurtful habit from our midst, in the churches, and may God hasten the day when such shall be driven out of our midst. I. B. DAVIS, Chairman.

Amendment: We recommend all the churches to exclude any and all members, who participate in dram-drinking—as a beverage—or engage in or encourage illicit distilling. After speeches by a number of brethren, the report, with the amendment was unanimously adopted.

Report of Mission Board:

We employed brother J. E. Barnard as Missionary, to preach in the bounds of the Association, with the understanding and agreement that, neither the Board nor the Association should be bound to him for any definite salary; but that he should receive for his services whatever he or the Board might collect for that purpose. Brother

Barnard has been favorably received, and has done good and faithful service, so far as the Board have been informed, and we refer to his report for further particulars. We have collected and disbursed the following amount, $54.40.

J. H. McGuire, Chm'n.

Elder J. E. Barnard's report:

Dear Brethren.—Under appointment of your Mission Board, I commenced labor, as Missionary in your bounds, June 22nd, 1889. Have traveled 1010 miles, preached 128 sermons, 70 were baptized in meetings where I assisted pastors. Held meetings myself at 4 school-houses, in which there were 8 conversions.

J. E. Barnard, Missionary.

Pending the adoption of these reports many speeches were made, and they were adopted with some explanation and changes.

On motion, adjourned for dinner, which the good sisters had prepared on the ground. Prayer by Bro. L. C. Shirley.

Met pursuant to adjournment at 1½ o'clock p. m. The regular order of business was suspended to receive correspondence from sister Associations:

From Yellow Creek; Brethren E. B. Guin, J. A. Trim, J. C. Bowling and T. T. Hilburn were cordially welcomed without a letter.

Returned correspondence as follows:

To the Yellow Creek: Elds. J. W. Hosmer, J. E. Cox, J. S. Shirley, W. G. Baker, Q. D. Haney, and brethren, J. E. Mills and A. N. Reeves.

To the Tuscaloosa: Elds. J. W. Hosmer, J. B. Ferguson, J. E. Cox, I. B. Davis, and brethren T. B. Newton-J. D. Thomas.

To the North River: Elds. W. G. Baker, Q. D. Haney, J. Taylor, J. B. Ferguson, J. E. Cox, and Bro. T. B. Newton.

To the Alabama State Convention: Elders G. W. Gravlee, J. E. Cox and J. W. Hosmer.

To the Southern Baptist Convention: Eld. J. E. Cox.

A collection for Foreign Missions was taken up, and $10.50 was contributed by the delegates.

Report of the Committee on Education :

Dear Brethren.—We see a great lack of education in the bounds of this Association. What is our duty in regard to this matter? Let us as Baptists, select good teachers, who can instruct the heart as well as the brain ; and when we do this, our children will be properly trained for the duties and responsibilities of life. Let us employ first-class christian teachers, in our country schools ; let us struggle for light and knowledge, that we may be the better fitted to train our children in the way they should go, as God directs.

We cheerfully recommend Howard College, the Central, the Judson Institute and the Fayette Male and Female Institute, all of which, are institutions of learning worthy of our patronage. Q. D. Haney, Chm'n.

On Literature :

Your Committee on Literature consider it of great importance that Baptists avail themselves of every opportunity to procure for themselves and families sound Baptist literature; such as the "Alabama Baptist," "Baptist and Reflector," "Kind Words," and publications of like import; by reading of which, we may be prepared to receive the truths of the Gospel. It is an incontrovertible fact, that where literature is circulated and read, which has for its object, as we conceive,, schism, and discord, as well as infidelity, with very little Bible truth, the hurtful effect is visible in every instance, both, in the church and the individual; destroying their influence and usefulness, in both cases. Most assuredly, such literature is not circulated to advance the cause of Christ, but to confuse, and lead the children of God astray. In view of these facts, we do earnestly recommend that Christians guard against, and that they neither countenance nor support such literature, nor suffer it to come into their families, as is now being circulated under the names of "Zion," "Watch-tower," "Stumbling-Stone," and kindred pernicious literature. J. W. Graham, Chm'n.

Treasurer's Report:

Rec'd from Finance Com., for Minutes,	$31 55	
For Association purposes	13 35	
Balance on hand	11 75	
	$56 65	
Paid for Minutes		$27 00
Paid for postage and stationery		20
Rev. G. W. Gravlee's expenses to Southern Baptist Convention		11 75
Clerk's fee		12 00
		$50 95

Balance on hand $5 70.

J. E. Cox, Treasurer.

Corresponding Letter:

The New River Baptist Association, to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds----Greeting:

Our body is now in session, and, we have had a harmonious and an interesting time. We trust that the Lord will bless our efforts to advance His cause and kingdom in our bounds, and that our labors have not been in vain. Your correspondents were cordially welcomed to seats with us. Our next session will be held with Mt. Pleasant church, 8 miles southeast of Fayette C. H., on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1890, where and when we trust you will meet us again.

We return correspondence as shown in the body of these Minutes. May heaven's blessings attend you!

J. D. Thomas, Cor. Sec'y.

Report of the Committee on Nominations:

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to report, that the next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Pleasant church, 8 miles southeast of Fayette C. H., Fayette county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1890: Eld. J. W. Hosmer to preach the opening sermon, Eld. G. W. Gravlee, alternate: Eld. W. G. Baker to preach at 11 o'clock a. m. on Sabbath, Eld. Q. D. Haney, alternate. Mission Board: L. C. Shirley, G. H. White, W. F. Baker and A. J. Reeves. On Ministerial Education: J. H. McGuire, J. S Shirley and W. B. Melton.

James R. Gladden, Ch'm.

Report of the Committee on Finance :

We your Committee on Finance beg leave to report, that we have received from the churches as follows : For Minutes, $34.60; for Asspociational purposes, $14.50; for Home Missions, $5.25; for Foreign Missions, $2.50; for State Missions, $5.70. ($4.60 of which we paid to J. E. Barnard, our Missionary), all of which is humbly submitted. C. R. Davis, Chm'n.

Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools :

Your Committee on Sunday Schools would report, that the letters from the churches in our union indicate very few Sabbath Schools. Dear brethren, we are sorry to learn that the Sabbath work is far below what it ought to be.— We think the study of the Bible should be encourged in every possible way, for we feel that there is no work so calculated to disseminate truth as that of the Sabbath School. We see no reason why every church should not have a Sabbath School. Let the heads which have grown gray in the service of God bow with pleasure to impart instruction to the opening minds of the rising generation, and sow in the promising soil, the seed that will produce a rich harvest, when the aged instructor shall have gone to his eternal reward. Let the parents be interested, and their children will catch the spirit. We would recommend "Kind Words" as your literature. Let your children see that you are concerned for them in the Sunday School work, and the church will realize a great blessing, as a result of your labors. In this work, you do not only implant truth, but you fortify them against error. We think the church should consider herself a nursery for Christ, where holy principles, and Baptist doctrines are inculcated in our Sabbath Schools. Our superintendents and teachers should be members of our churches, and in good standing. Humbly submitted. J. W. Hosmer, Chm'n.

Pending the adoption of this report, a number of enthusiastic speeches were made.

On motion, adjourned until 8½ o'clock Tuesday, a. m. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Gravlee.

TUESDAY MORNING—8½ o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment, and the devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator.

Report of the Committee on Documents:

Your Committee on Documents report, that we have examined all the papers submitted to us, and find that 126 have been baptized. We also find in comparing the statistics of the Minutes of last session with some of the letters from the churches, that they do not correspond in the numbers reported last session and this. We therefore recommend, that clerks of churches, and our Associational clerk, carefully notice this matter. We recommend the use of printed form of church letters to Association, for the purpose of expediting business, and also, that the clerks make a full report of the work of the churches.

We find a query from Mt. Lebanon church, asking how long can a church-member hold a letter of dismission, and it be recognized as valid? Answer: We know no limit of the validity of letters granted, so long as churches granting them, indulge the holding of these letters. We advise the churches to admonish such members to discharge their duties, and if they persistently refuse, to call in such letters of commendations. Submitted,

G. W. Gravlee, Chm'n.

Report of the Committee on Ministerial Education:

Your Committee on Ministerial Education report, that we have done nothing. Brother H. T. Wright declined going to school, and we had no application for assistance. We urge upon our young ministers the importance of an education, to better fit them for their work. No young minister should enter upon his duties without procuring (if possible) an education. We recommend the Howard College, for the higher education of our young men, and especially our young ministers. Churches should give due encouragement and aid to the young preachers, in procuring an education. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. Gravlee, Chm'n.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were adopted, as follows:

1. Whereas, there seems to be some misunderstanding, and a want of union in the Mission work; therefore,

Be it Resolved, That our Board be authorized to exercise their best judgment in the prosecution of the Mission work, both in the field, and the raising of funds to defray expenses, and that every minister who can, be invited to do all the missionary work that he can at his own expense.

2. *Resolved*, That our churches be advised, in granting letters, to limit their validity to, not exceeding twelve months out of the State, nor six months in it.

3. Whereas the territory of the New River Association has become so widely extensive, as to be burdensome to the churches on the extreme borders of the Body, to represent in our annual meetings; we therefore recommend the churches to take into consideration the propriety of dividing the body into two Associations, as it is now divided into Districts, and report their decision at the next session of this Association.

4. *Resolved*, That the Clerk be instructed to have the Minutes printed and pay for same out of Minute fund, and $14.00 be paid to him out of the Associational fund, for his trouble, and also have a sufficient number of blank forms of letters to this Association for all the churches.

5. *Resolved*, That the hearty thanks of this body be tendered to Oak Grove church and vicinity for the hospitable manner in which they have supplied our wants, and for the kindness shown us during our stay with them.

On motion, the Minutes were read and delegates names called, and absentees erased.

A motion to adjourn prevailed, when an appropriate hymn was sung, the parting hand given to meet again the second Sunday, and Saturday before, in October, 1890, at Mt. Pleasant church, 8 miles S. E. from Fayette C. H., Ala. Prayer by Eld. W. G. Baker. Benediction by Eld. G. W. Gravlee.

J. B. Ferguson, Mod'r.

J. E. Cox, Clerk.

[Encouraging Sabbath Schools were reported from Mt. Pleasant, Bankston and two or three other churches; and why not from all the churches?

Money was disbursed at the Association which is reported in the Statistical Table.

Let every Clerk of his church use the blank letter sent him, after filling blanks, as the letter to the Association, and oblige the reading clerk, the Association, the Clerk, and all present CLERK.]

ERRATA.—On the 3rd page, and third line from the bottom, the word "spiritual" should read *spirited*.

MISSION BOARD.

L. C. Shirley, Chm'n ..... Ridge, Ala.
G. H. White ..... Legg, Ala.
A. J. Reeves ..... Ballard, Ala
W. F. Baker and J. H. Newton ..... Fayette C. H., Ala.

ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

J. H. McGuire, Chm'n ..... Fayette C. H., Ala.
J. S. Shirley ..... Fayette C. H., Ala.
W. B. Melton ..... Fayette C. H., Ala.

NAMES OF MINISTERS

In the New River Association, and their P. O. Address.

LICENSED MINISTERS.

G. W. Freeman, Brocton,	Ala.	W. A. Huckabee, Winfield,	Ala.
H. T. Wright, Newtonville,	Ala.	W. D. Dickinson, Winfield,	"
L. C. Shirley, Ridge,	"	Alonzo Canterberry, Winfield,	"
M. W. Olive, Ridge,	"	I. Estell, Guin,	"
A. N. Reeves, Mt. Calm,	"	J. S. Townsend, Handy,	"
I. B. Davis, Reuben,	"	G. W. McGinnis, Bankston,	"
J. M. Davis, Reuben,	"	J. N. Ashcraft, Cave Spring,	"
J. W. Graham, Fayette C. H.,	"	Licensed Ministers, 15.	

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. W. Gravlee, Newtonville,	Ala.	W. J. Blankenship, Ballard,	Ala.
J. S. White, Ridge,	"	G. S. Sanford, Ballard,	"
J. J. Patterson, Ridge,	"	W. G. Baker, Bankston,	"
W. J. Akin, Davis Creek,	"	J. W. Hosmer, Bankston,	"
J. B. Ferguson, Samantha,	"	Jonathan Taylor, Winfield,	"
I. L. Collins, Ridge,	"	J. W. McGaha, Winfield,	"
J. S. Shirley, Fayette C. H.,		Q. D. Haney, Winfield,	"
J. E. Cox, Fayette C. H.,	"	J. R. Barnett, Samantha,	"
J. F. Willis, Fayette C. H.,	"	A. P. Dobson, Glen Allen,	"
J. P. Dickinson, Fayette C. H.,	"	Ordained Ministers, 19.	

STATISTICS OF THE NEW RIVER ASSOCIATION.

	CHURCHES	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	Sab. M'tg's	Baptized	Rec'd by L.	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Dead	Total	Minute F.	Associa'l F.	State Miss.	Home Miss.	Foreign M.	Aged M'r's
2nd District.	El Bibethel	J. P. Dickinson	Fayette C. H., Ala.	2	2	13		3		1	29	75	50				
	Friendship	W. J. Blankenship	Ballard	4	5	7	1	2		2	85	1 00	50				
	Grove, Harmony	J. P. Dickinson	Fayette C. H.	1	4	4	2	4	2		107	1 90	50				
	Grove, Oak	A. W. Green	Guin	2	6	2		2	1	1	45	1 00	50				
	Grove, Pleasant	W. J. Akin	Mount Calm	3							10	40	35				
	Hill, Pleasant	W. G. Baker	Bankston	4		3		10			33	1 50	50	7 30	1 00	1 00	
	Hope, New	Q. D. Haney	Winfield	3	8	7				2	7	1 50	50		1 25		
	Joy, Mount	N. J. Dyer	Cane	2				5	1		28	1 00	50				
	Lebanon, Mount	J. F. Willis	Fayette C. H	1	4	4					72	1 00	50	8 00			
	Mount Olive	W. J. Blankenship	Ballard	1	5		1	9	1	1	46	1 00	75				
	Hopewell	J. W. McGaha	Winfield					3		1	32	1 00	50				
	Siloam	J. Taylor	"	3	14	1		2			44	1 50	50				
	Union	J. J. McCollum	New River	3	2				2		22	75	50				
	Union, Marion Co	Q. D. Haney	Guin	3	4	13		12	4		44	1 50	75	8 30	5 00		
	Arbor Spring	J. W. Hosmer	Bankston	3	2	5					54	1 00	50		3 00	1 50	2 00
	Bankston	J. W. Hosmer	"	4	5	9					24	75	50				
	Concord	J. M. Chism	Ridge	4	18	3	1	27	6	1	186	2 10	1 00		25		50
	Chappel Hill	J. S. White	"	2	7				1	1	79	1 50					
1st District.	Fayetteville	Not represented.															
	Grove, Shady			1	6	4		10	2	2	53	1 00	50				
	Hope, New, Tusca Co.	J. B. Ferguson	Samantha	2		6					22	1 00	25				
	Meadow Branch	N. J. Dyer	Kingville	2				2		1	35	1 25	25	5 2			
	Mt Pleasant	G. W. Gravlee	Newtonville	2	8	2	5	2	4	1	90	2 00	50				
	Mt. Pisgah	W. G. Baker	Bankston	2	3	3	1	10	2		39	1 00	55	1 20			
	Friendship, Tusca. Co.	J. L. Colow		1	2	3		2		2	63	1 50	50				
	Mount, Rocky	Silas Waldrop	Brocton	3	6	7			2	2	52	1 00	50				
	Pilgrim Rest	F. Wilson	Pilgrim	3	9	1		2			93	1 00	50				
	Salem	J. W. Rogers	Toledo		1	1		14	2	1	56	1 00	50				
	Shepherd	G. W. Gravlee	Newtonville	3				5	1	1	50	1 40	25				
	Ridge, Oak	Silas Waldrop	Pilgrim	4		1		3	1		34	1 00	85				
	Philadelphia	W. G. Baker	Bankston	1	8	7	1	3		1	53	1 30	50	4 80			
	Sipsey Valley	J. S. White	Ridge	1	2	2					41	50					

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing their letters, shall take their seats.

Art. 2. This Association shall be known by the name of the New River Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out missionary purposes in all their bearings; yet so as that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

Art. 3. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty; and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches, to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same can be reclaimed.

Art. 4. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed excommunicated and deceased since the last session, and state of their Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings, and the number of ordained ministers and licensed preachers, with their post office, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

Art. 5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

Art. 6. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose, by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

Art. 7. Churches may be admitted into this union who petition by letter and delegates; and, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, which shall be manifested by the Moderator's giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 8. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderrtor whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but it not, it shall be withdrawn, provided always that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

Art 9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

Art. 10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

Art. 11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

Art. 12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

Art. 13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when a majority of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe there is one only living and true God; and three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and pratice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity, that it disables man from keeping the Law for life; and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made, and offered, upon the condition of Faith.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the Truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

6. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them shall finally fall away.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

As for Gospel order: 1. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord, and one another, and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and only law-giver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual; and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the christian who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and unity of the churches.

3. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immersion.

4. We believe that none have the right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel, regularly ordained to that office.

5. We believe that none but those regularly baptised have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed, at the discretion of the Association.

3. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order and shall have a right to call to order at any time; and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order, may appeal to the Association, on the same day, but at no other time,

4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

6. Every person who shall speak in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

7. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address, one to another.

13. The names of Delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14 Any member violating the Rules, may be reproved as the Association thinks proper: only on the day the offence shall have occurred.